set us all so magnificent an example of unselfish devotion to the welfare of His subjects, and to the great cause for which we are fighting. The people of this State have been put through a severe test and have passed it with flying colours. They have, during the past year, shared in the community of suffering and of hardship through which victory will be won, and will, I believe, be fitted to play a great part in the better world which we look for after that final victory.

## CONGRATULATORY MOTION

**Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar** *(Nellaiyi)* : The resolution reads thus.

"This Council congratulates His Highness our beloved Maharaja on the well-merited honour he has received by the conferment on His Highness of the high title of "G. C. I. E." by His Majesty the King Emperor of India and requests the President to convey this resolution to His Highness the Maharaja."

Sir, we are particularly happy that the Resident of the State is personally present here while moving this congratulatory resolution.

The resolution which you, Sir, have so kindly allowed me to move is an expression of the great, joy which we, the members of this House, and His Highness' loyal and loving subjects outside this House whom we have the honour to represent, feel on the conferment by His Majesty the King Emperor of the title of "G. C. I. E." on His Highness our beloved Maharaja.

In His Highness, we have a Maharaja who loves his subjects with a love, abiding and deep, and with whom their welfare transcends all other considerations. His Highness' rule, if I may say so, is a shining illustration of Hindu kingship at its best. His Highness' life has always been characterised by a strict adherence to the ideals of right-living and right-thinking and robust and vigorous application of them in the everyday life of the individuals and the State. His Highness has an intense and intuitive antipathy to all things bad and His Highness has from the very first viewed with loathing the man-destroying, soul-eating civilisation of the Axis partners. His Highness is a firm believer in the ideals for which the democratic powers are fighting and has never failed on every suitable occasion to impress upon His Highness' subjects the importance and paramount necessity of maintaining and preserving those fundamental conceptions of human life and liberty which alone make life worth living and civilisation assumes its true meaning.

His Highness' contributions, both personal and on behalf of the State to the allied war efforts have been full, generous and in a measure befitting the high traditions of this State in regard to its relations with the Paramount Power. His Highness has guided the destinies of this State at this perhaps the most critical period in her history wisely and well and in a manner which makes out in no uncertain manner His Highness as a benevolent and just ruler and a far-sighted statesman.

The distinction now conferred on His Highness is thus a fitting recognition of His Highness' talents and abilities in various directions and of His Highness' ceaseless endeavours to promote the prosperity of the subjects of this State.

We, Sir, regard this distinction as the precursor of greater things to come in the fulness of time and may His Highness be blessed with a long life of health, peace, power and prosperity.

We request you, Sir, to convey to His Highness the respectful congratulations of the members of this House and of His Highness' beloved subjects on what is, if I may be permitted to say so, a well-merited honour and distinction.

**Mr. V. J. Mathai** *(Planters)*: Sir, On another occasion I had the honour to say that we have in His Highness a man of great intellect and of great vigour of mind and a Ruler of vast and long experience in men and affairs from whom we expected many things, in the words of the Holy Bible "To whom that hath much has been given, much shall be expected of him." I ought to say that the people of Cochin are expecting from His Highness to implement the promises held out by His Highness's intellect and brilliance shown in the beginning of His Highness' career as Maharaja of Cochin. I may say that the first thought that arises in the minds of the people of Cochin is the grant of further responsible Government in the State. I hope that the early promise of His Highness's career as Maharaja of Cochin will be fulfilled and which will earn for His Highness the name of a great and beneficent ruler. I may also say that this demand was a unanimous one so far as the Council is concerned and that there was neither party nor faction in the State. I join in the chorus of congratulations on this occasion and wish His Highness long life and happiness.

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**Mr. A. V. Moothedan** *(Chalakkudi)*: Sir, On behalf of the section of the people whom I represent I have great pleasure to associate myself with this resolution moved by one of the oldes members of the House. Our Maharaja, I can boldly say, is a great and versatile genius. There is no subject under the sum with which His Highness is not familiar. His Highness knows cultivation of paddy, of tapioca, cocoanut tree etc. Though the sovereign of a great State and the member of an ancient Royal family His Highness knows every detail of a poor agriculturist's everyday life and that shows the very great solicitude His Highness takes in the welfare of the people. There is a great test to find out the true character of a man. That is adversity. As soon as His Highness ascended the Musnad there was the cyclone which terribly affected the whole of Cochin and other parts of Malabar. His Highness rose equal to the occasion and allowed very great amounts for relief work by way of loans, free grant, house loans and remission of land tax. On this occasion when His Imperial Majesty has been pleased to confer the great title of G.C.I.E. on His Highness it is the duty of the people of the State to congratulate His Highness and I fully associate with the resolution.

**Mr. K. M. Ibrahim** *(Cranganur)*: I also associate with the expression of felicitations on the honour that has been conferred on our beloved Maharaja by His Majesty. It especially augurs well that when His Highness is actively co-operating with the Crown for the annihilation of the Axis Powers the fall of a great Dictator has synchronised with the expression of our felicitations on this occasion. *(Hear, hear)*. His Highness's solicitude for the public immediately after the cyclone, his personal influence in the inauguration of the Verumpattom Bill, his personal influence that has influenced the various activities of alleviation that has been eloquently expressed on the floor of the House by the Hon'ble President this morning are all justifications for the universal expression of felicitations that is being expressed not only in this House but in every corner of the State.

**Mr. M. Krishna Menon** *(Trichur-North)*: On an occasion of congratulation on the conferment of the title of G.C.I.E. on our beloved Maharaja I do not want to count and re-count the qualities of head and heart possessed by our Maharaja. But I am reminded of the common appellation of "Midukkan Thampuran" when this confernment has been made by His Imperial Majesty. I wish to associate with all the sentiments of joy expressed by the Hon'ble Members of this House. I wish our beloved Maharaja long life and prosperity.

**Mr. L. M. Pylee** *(Latin Christians-Ernakulam)*: Sir, on behalf of the Latin Christian community one of whose representatives in this House I happen to be I beg to associate myself with all that has been expressed by the Hon'ble Mover of the resolution. I think that the Honour conferred by the Paramount Power upon our beloved Maharaja is an honour conferred upon the people of the State and we feel highly grateful to His Majesty the King Emperor for his having conferred this honour on our ruler. This is not an occasion to say, sir, what is expected of His Highness. We know the great interest evinced by His Highness in the welfare of his subjects. We know the capabilities with which he is endowed which even long before he ascended the Musnad and as one Hon'ble Member said, His Highness has been known as Midukkan Thampuran. I am sure in the fullness of time he will grant whatever he deems fit for the well-being of his beloved subjects. Sir, I don't take any more time of the House. I wish His Highness long life and prosperity and all blessings of Divine Providence so that he may guide us through these difficult times to the victory of the United Nations against the evils which the world faces now.

**Mr. K. T. Achyutan** *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli)*: As was expressed by Hon'ble Members I wish on behalf of the Ezhuva community also to endorse everything that has been said by the Mover of the resolution. To me it seems that such honours were overdue and we expect that in the near future greater honours will be conferred on our Maharaja and I hope that Cochin will form a responsible part of the British Empire.

**Mr. Ismail Hajee Essa Sait** *(Mattancheri)*: Sir, The resolution is for congratulating His Highness our beloved Maharaja on the conferment of the title of G.C.I.E. by His Majesty. The Mover has explained the details of what our Maharaja has done in our State on account of the war. I do not wish to make a long speech on the subject and I on behalf of my community congratulate His Highness for his having obtained this title. So I beg to associate myself with all that has been said by the Hon'ble Members. Sir, I heard somthing about responsible Government. I do not think that this is an occasion for making speeches for responsible Government.

**Mr. P. K. Krishnan** *(Nominated)*: Sir, I inform this House that we the depressed class people are more happy than any other community in the State on the event of our patron Highness' receipt of the title of G.C.I.E.

The Highnesses of Cochin had been from very early times great patrons of the uplift of the depressed communities of Cochin. They have done more than any other Highness of the

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various other Native States with the aim of bringing up the depressed communities to the same level as other communities. The poor people of Cochin are greatly fortunate in this case. Our reigning Highness is no less great a patron. I know His Highness is paying great attention to the progress of the depressed communities. I have great pleasure to congratulate His Highness on his receipt of G.C.I.E. on behalf of the communities I represent and myself.

**Mr. T. K. Nayar** *(Minister for Rural Development):* Sir, As leader of the House it is with feelings of extreme joy that I rise to join the chorus of congratulations to our beloved Maharaja on the conferment of the title of G. C. I. E. on him by His Majesty the King Emperor. This conferment of great honour especially at this time speeks volumes of the high appreciation on the part of His Majesty of His Highness' rule. Once again I share in the feelings of joy on an occasion like this and wish long life and prosperity to our beloved Maharaja. With these few words I resume my seat.

**Mr. President:** On behalf of the Chair I wish to associate myself whole-heartedly with this resolution. All His Highness's subjects rejoiced at the news that His Imperial Majesty the King Emperor had recognised the noble qualities of our Ruler by confering on him the High distinction of Grand Cross of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, so soon after his accession.

His Highness has set us all a splendid example in his simplicity of living by his devotion to the welfare of his subjects, however humble they may be, and by his loyalty to the cause for which we are fighting. His Highness is a Prince who cares not for personal glory or for personal comfort, but cares greatly for the poor among his subjects who are suffering at this time. His Highness devotes himself to the task of doing all he can to mitigate the hard lot of the poor, and of ensuring that His State shall do all that is possible to hasten the end of the world struggle, which has brought so much misery in its train. His Majesty has honoured a Ruler who like himself lives not for self but for his people.

*The resolution was put and carried unanimously all members standing.*

## Announcement of the names of the Panel of Chairmen

**Mr. President:** The following Members will constitute as panel of Chairmen. Mrs. A. N. Menon and Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.

## Speech by the Member for Rural Development

**Mr. T. K. Nayar** *(Minister for Rural Development):* Mr. President, Sir, In addressing this House on the eve of the presentation of the second Budget since the assumption of office by me, I have a pleasant and onerous duty to perform, of placing before the Hon'ble Members a brief account of the administration of the Transferred Subjects for the current year with a forecast of the salient features designed for the year to come.

We have been passing through the most critical period in our history. With the thorny tentacles of a devastating war creeping into the vitals of our daily life and the battle of food already waged on our people still advancing with merciless and almost sickening onslaughts, the task of keeping the normal tempo of rural welfare is bound to be beset with difficulties of the most acute character. While looking back to the past with a sigh of relief, the future creates in us a sense of fear and hope, fear of still more difficult days to come and hope of tiding over them by united and sustained action. The reins of administration during the current year, as the House is aware, have been directed towards the solution of the most vital problem confronting the State, I mean, the food problem. To those who have been watching the trend of events in Cochin, it would be abundantly clear that Cochin owes a deep debt of gratitude to her Diwan, Mr. Dixon, for the transparent sincerity and extraordinary boldness evinced by him in tackling the food problem. A problem of such enormous magnitude can never be expected to be solved unless the co-operation of all branches of administration, as also of the public, is extended in an unreserved measure. It is only in the fitness of things that in this connection I extend to the people of Cochin my hearty congratulations for the patience with which they have been facing the food situation and the sympathy and co-operation they have shown to the schemes started by the Government in the direction of solving this problem. I could think of no better way of discharging the solemn trust placed in me than by tuning my departments to the solution of this all-important problem and augmenting the facilities for the production of more and more food stuffs in the State, thereby supplementing the efforts of the Diwan in this direction. The Minor Irrigation Scheme of which I had occasion to mention in my last budget speech was intended to serve as an important food production scheme. As you know, Rural Cochin had been suffering much in the past, especially in the dry months of the year, to get adequate irrigation facilities to protect her crops. When Burma was supplying us with enough rice, this urgent necessity was

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